

SAYS FUSION MADE CITY'S CREDIT GOOD

Mr. Prendergast Praises Colleagues for Plan of Issuing Corporate Stock Notes.

That the greatest achievement of the fusion members of the Board of Estimate in the present administration in New York city has been to firmly establish the city's credit by perfecting a plan for the issuance of corporate stock notes, was the assertion of William A. Prendergast, the Controller, in an address last night at the City Club. "The most significant and important act of the administration," said the Controller, "has been to make it possible for this city to pay its obligations promptly."

George McAneny, President of the Borough of Manhattan, who preceded Mr. Prendergast, discussed the work of the Board of Estimate during the last two years. He contended that much had been accomplished in placing New York upon a more secure financial basis. In introducing the Controller, Mr. McAneny said that Mr. Prendergast had during his incumbency stood for a programme of clean and honest municipal government.

Mr. Prendergast devoted the greater part of his address to the discussion of a plan for greater efficiency and economy in the administration of municipal affairs. He said it was his desire to apply the same principles and methods of successful business enterprises to the departments of the city. He urged the standardization of salaries and wages. He gave the following six reasons why the present system of conducting the city's business affairs should be more modern and up to date:

First, lack of continuity in management; second, political and personal interference with executive control; third, lack of administrative ability on the part of executives; fourth, administrative policy based upon future political preference; fifth, the comparative ease with which the city is able to obtain money; and sixth, arbitrary rates of remuneration fixed by mandatory legislation.

"All of these difficulties," he continued, "should be peremptorily ignored in any present attempt to evolve a plan to develop the principles of efficiency and economy in municipal management."

Before taking up the discussion of his plan for the standardization of the departments of city administration Mr. Prendergast reviewed the work of the fusion members of the Board of Estimate in their efforts to place the city upon a firmer financial basis.

FEWER NEWSPAPERS IN UNITED STATES

Shrinkage of Thirteen in Dailies and Forty in Weeklies Shown in Last Year.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Monday.—Newspaper census figures for 1911, compiled by the American Newspaper Annual and Directory, published here to-day, indicate that multiplication of daily papers in the United States has come to a halt. A year ago the number was 2,472; the 1912 Annual lists thirteen less, showing that the trend is now in the downward direction. According to this authority, greater mortality than birth rate is explained by suspension or consolidation of newspapers in crowded and unproductive fields. New England has lost four dailies, New York four, Middle West States nine and the Western States have thirteen less than a year ago. Gains have been heaviest in the Southern States, while the Middle Atlantic section has an increase of three.

Weekly and semi-weekly newspapers also seem to have reached their limit in numbers. The 1912 Annual names and describes 16,229 weeklies, forty less than in 1911, and 833 semi-weeklies, as compared with 617 in 1911.

DEFIES FATHER; WEDS NURSE.

Son of Wealthy Philadelphia Coal Operator Was Her First Patient—Flee in Automobile.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Monday.—Morton McCurt, of this city, son of W. R. McCurt, a wealthy coal operator, has defied his parents and the threat of disinheritance, and has married Miss Teresa Audibert, a nurse, who brought him back to health at the American Stomach Hospital several months ago.

McCurt is twenty-three years old and the bride, whom he met less than a year ago, is twenty-one years old. The couple were married January 15 at Hainesport, N. J., whither they fled in an automobile.

Miss Audibert received her diploma only a year ago and her husband was her first patient.

Immediately following the wedding the couple returned to Hainesport, Pa., where McCurt is employed by the Hazel Mountain Coal Company.

PLUNGES 9 FLOORS, KILLED.

Cleveland Man Drops from Ledge of Building Near Where President Is Lurching.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Monday.—John J. Gunn, an attorney in the Society for Savings Building, plunged from a window on the ninth floor at noon to-day, while President Taft was at luncheon at the Chamber of Commerce next door. He was killed instantly.

Gunn was sent to the Cuyahoga Falls Sanitarium two years ago after a hearing in Probate Court. It is reported he feared a nervous and mental breakdown. Policemen Seltzman while walking his beat saw Gunn climb out on the window ledge and drop.

Gunn was twenty-eight years old and unmarried.

MEDICINE MEN OF THE MIDDLE AGES.

Dr. James J. Walsh in a most interesting article shows once more that there is nothing new under the sun; that much of the medical and surgical practice that we think modern was practiced in medieval days. Illustrated article in next Sunday's NEW YORK HERALD.

Mrs. Morrow Gives Self Up.

CHICAGO, Ill., Monday.—Mrs. Rena B. Morrow, under indictment for the murder of her husband, Charles B. Morrow, who was found shot to death December 28, surrendered to the Sheriff to-day. A petition for a writ of habeas corpus was filed.

Names Twin Roosevelt; It Dies.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Monday.—William Jones, a negro, recently the father of twins, wanted to name one of them after the next President, so he called one William Taft and the other Theodore Roosevelt. To-day Theodore died.



"SOMETIMES OL' BRER WOLF HE GIT LEFT."

Grand Jury Begins Inquiry Into the High Cost of Butter

Seeks, in Books of Exchange, Evidence of Alleged Illegal Combination of Dealers to Control Prices—Assistant District Attorney De Ford Conducts Investigation.

William A. De Ford, Assistant District Attorney, yesterday began an investigation of the alleged combination of merchants to illegally control the price of butter. One witness, F. G. Henry, secretary of the Mercantile Exchange, testified before the Grand Jury. Others who have been subpoenaed will testify to-day.

Mr. Henry brought with him all the books and accounts of the Mercantile Exchange. These were left in the custody of Mr. De Ford, who will employ expert accountants to go over the books and ascertain if the relations of the Mercantile Exchange to its members are in violation of the anti-trust laws.

After Mr. De Ford obtains an insight into the local situation he will direct his attention to the charge that there is a cold storage trust which limits the number of firms and individuals which shall engage in the butter business. The inquiry will cover conditions in the farming communities so far as they concern the situation in New York city.

If the evidence before the Grand Jury is such as to justify the expectations of Mr. De Ford, the Grand Jury investigation will be discontinued and the proceedings continued publicly before a city magistrate.

EGGS, 55 Cents in Chicago, Are To Go Still Higher.

CHICAGO, Ill., Monday.—Eggs retailed to-day as high as 55 cents a dozen, although the average was around 48 and 50 cents.

William Dotz, sales manager of a wholesale egg firm, explained that wholesalers are now paying from 38 to 37 cents for "firsts," on the basis of which quotation the price of candied fresh stock to the

Avoid Politics and Be Happy Is Message of "Fiddling Bob"

Tennessee Society in New York, at Dinner in Waldorf, Hears Senator Taylor Talk and Sing—Senator Lea Takes Fling at the Ultra Conservatives.

Wish to live in Happy Valley? Keep out of politics. The answer is from "Fiddling Bob," known also to fame as the senior Senator from the State, whose wandering sons he addressed at the seventh annual dinner of the Tennessee Society in the Waldorf-Astoria last night.

Senator Robert J. Taylor also charmed his auditors with his dulcet voice, and although he had no fiddle he went through the motions of playing one. Also he lifted up his voice in song. The only really dismal things he said, or warbled, were about politics and the desire some Americans have to accumulate earthly pelf.

"The American people," said the Senator, "are getting so fond of gold that when they go to another realm they will be digging up the streets of the New Jerusalem. Some of them, after they get inside the gate where St. Peter stands, will levy a tariff on the backs of the angels for the protection of American industry. I hear the golden jingle in their laughter and even the eyes of the church are jaundiced with gold."

Having been born in Happy Valley himself, where the rising sun sends out its shining straws to waken the world and tinkle it into laughter, the Senator spoke and sang at full lecture length concerning the wonders of the great State from which he had come. "We uns of Tennessee," some four hundred in all, brave men and handsome women in about equal quantities, laughed with the Senator and at him and delighted in his quaint stories of the Volunteer State. Such a place is this Happy Valley that, standing on the misty mountain tops, the morning shoots out the stars from the black target of the night.

Wonderful prowess, too, have all the bluish denizens of Happy Valley. The Senator recalled one who boasted that he could climb up a hundred foot tree trunk naked with a wildcat under each arm, and never get a scratch. The same citizen arrived in the leading general store of Happy Valley, with his eyes in mourning and one arm in a sling. He had gone up the tree last night, but he got some minor hurts coming down. Everybody wanted to hear the Senator

talk, but there was no time for him to give any of the blit from the poet laureate of music.

Tendencies toward the democratic party were evident in the assemblage. If there were any of the party now at the helm of the nation present they were under cover. Senator Taylor set the table in a roar when he quoted a lanky youth of Tennessee when asked if he belonged to the human species, as saying that he was a republican.

Luke Lea, the junior Senator, attacked the ultra conservative element in this country which he said was surely driving the people to socialism and uttered strong words in favor of the progressive. His references to Washington, Andrew Jackson and Lincoln brought continued applause.

Bruce L. Brice presided at the dinner in the absence of the president, Barron C. Collier, who is ill. Some of those present were: Augustus Van Wyck, formerly a Justice; William Alexander, Sumner Ballard, George Gordon Battle, Charles H. Coffin, J. L. Diamond, Miss Alvin Rhman, Major Richard H. Gordon, Dr. J. T. Gwathmey, Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Kirkhead, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin T. Terry, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Turner, Vanderbilt University had an entire table.

The society presented a loving cup to Martin J. Condon, formerly of Memphis, and to Marshall L. Havey, formerly president of the society, it presented a cane.

Holy Cross Alumni to Dine.

Members of the Holy Cross Alumni Association of New York will hold their annual dinner at the Hotel Manhattan this evening. The Rev. John Wickham will act as toastmaster and the speakers will be the Very Rev. J. A. Dinahill, the Rev. Bernard Vaughn, Thomas H. Sullivan, M. J. Costello and Dr. James J. Walsh.

Richard A. McCurdy Is Improved.

It was said at his home, at Morrisstown, N. J., last night, that Richard A. McCurdy had a satisfactory day and was much better and that no serious results are looked for. Mr. McCurdy was taken to his home Sunday from New York suffering with an infected foot.

LOVE NOTE CLEW IN MURDER MYSTERY

Body of Slain Man Found in Bayonne—Believed To Have Been Shot by Rival.

With a bullet wound in the throat, the body of an unidentified man who, the Bayonne police believe, was the victim of a rival in a love affair, was found last night at avenue A and Third street, a sparsely settled section of Bayonne. All the available policemen were assigned to investigate the case under the direction of Sergeant Griffin, and their hope of establishing the identity of the victim was confined to a crumpled copy of a love letter, in which appeared the names "Ethel Abbott" and "Morris."

Frank Mowmowski, of No. 844 Prospect avenue, driver of a coal truck, was on his way home when he saw two men in avenue A, bending over a figure on the snow covered ground. He approached the men, and when he saw that they were gazing at a man dead from a pistol shot wound, he asked why they had not notified the police. As Mowmowski ran off to call for aid, he says the two men, both of whom were young and well dressed, hurried away in an opposite direction.

Investigation by the police revealed that the dead man had been shot in the right side of the throat, and that the bullet probably had been fired at close range, as there were black marks on the man's face and collar. The first theory of the police that the man had committed suicide was dispelled when they failed to find a pistol. Snow covered the ground, but it was not deep enough to have hidden a pistol from view.

At the Bayonne morgue the clothing of the dead man was searched, but the police announced that they had found no clew to his identity.

A copy of a letter addressed to Ethel Abbott was found and it contained a suggestion that the writer was jealous of "Morris." In closing the writer said:—"My love for you has inspired me to write a play, which I will call 'A Man's Great Mistake.'"

The victim was about twenty-eight years old, five feet eight inches in height and weighed about one hundred and sixty pounds. He wore dark clothing and a gray overcoat of good material. There was only twenty cents in the pockets, but the police did not believe that any attempt at robbery had been made.

JEWELRY SEWED IN HER SKIRT

Aged Woman Found Unconscious Carried Money and Valuables in New Bank.

Nurses in the Harlem Hospital were surprised to find, sewed in the skirt of Mrs. Bertha Anderson, \$500 in cash and jewelry valued at \$5,000 when she was taken there in a critical condition from pneumonia poisoning and apoplexy on Sunday. She was discovered unconscious in her room at No. 12 West 128th street.

Mrs. Anderson had lived at the West 128th street address for the last six months. The majority of her meals had been made up of canned goods. She was sixty-five years old.

FINDS LAUNDRY STRIKE JUSTIFIED

Caused by Long Hours and Low Wages, State Board of Arbitration Reports.

That the laundry workers were justified in striking because of long hours and low wages is the finding of the State Board of Arbitration, which conducted an inquiry into the causes of the strike. The report, which was made public yesterday by Colonel M. J. Reagan, who with W. C. Rogers and James McManus constituted the Board, in part says:—

"The principal causes of the laundry workers' strike were found to be long and irregular hours, small wages and the refusal of the employers to recognize and treat with the union."

"The Board finds that six individual employers have signed agreements with the union and are operating under union conditions. The other steam laundries are running nearly full, and non-union workers being employed."

"In the opinion of the Board the conditions of long hours and low wages disclosed by the evidence justify the complaints of the striking laundry workers. The conditions are the result of unreasonable competition among the proprietors of steam laundries to obtain the business of washing and ironing clothes from the so-called 'hand laundries' in the city of New York. As a matter of fact the hand laundries are for the most part mere collection agencies for the steam laundries, their advertised 'hand work' being almost exclusively the ironing of shirts and underwear."

"The Board recommends that all employees on strike be returned to their old positions; that the employers declare their willingness to deal with the union where it is organized, and that the union and the association of employers agree to settle questions of present and future disputes by mutual recognition and final arbitration; that the scale of wages be adjusted to correspond generally with that paid in the shops where the highest rate now prevails; that working hours be arranged between half-past seven in the morning and half-past six in the evening daily, with four hours Saturday forenoon, and that overtime be paid for at the rate of time and a half."

The Board of Inquiry also has notified John Williams, Commissioner of Labor, of many alleged violations of the labor law disclosed by the evidence.

CRITICISES SCHOOL CENSUS.

E. B. Shallow Says Board's Figures Are Inaccurate, and It Should Be "Wiped Out."

Edward B. Shallow, an associate superintendent of schools, declared in a report made public yesterday that the Permanent School Census Board should be "wiped out." He asserts that several statements, which he credits to George H. Chaffield, secretary of the Permanent School Census Board, are inaccurate, especially in regard to the number of truants in New York city.

Mr. Shallow's statement closes with this paragraph:—"The hall of the Board of Education gives house room to this expensive census bureau. It should be wiped out, its elaborate equipment stored away and such of it as can be employed used once in three years for a count of the juvenile population."

OPPOSE FEDERAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU

New York Workers Say Bill Before Senate To-Day Is a Futile Measure.

Senator Bailey, of Texas, is not alone in his opposition to the bill which comes up for final passage in the United States Senate to-day, providing for a federal Children's Bureau, according to statements made yesterday by men who have been interested for years in the protection of children. It is believed, the bill, when presented to-day, will cause a lively discussion.

Mr. Ernest K. Coulter, founder of the Big Brother movement and, for almost ten years Clerk of the Children's Court of New York county, said:—

"The fight against the Children's Bureau bill, as now proposed, is not opposed to promotion of child welfare, but is because of the absolute futility of the bill. It is time to protest against further statistical bureaus whose chief functions are gathering facts already well known and paying fat salaries to officials who pose as philanthropists who do no single thing to help a human being. I am speaking from actual experience with so-called charitable organizations whose charity goes no further than the gathering of lifeless statistics to be filed away in dusty archives. Even the advocates of the bill are forced to admit that the measure is absolutely without remedial provision or possibility."

Dr. William O. Stillman, of Albany, N. Y., president of the American Humane Association, said:—

"While I am heartily in favor of a proper legislation for the protection of childhood, I do not approve of the attempt to centralize all efforts in this direction in a department of the federal government. It would discourage individual initiative in the different States. The federal government has little or no power in the direction of enacting laws for the protection of childhood, and a federal bureau for that purpose would practically be an academic institution."

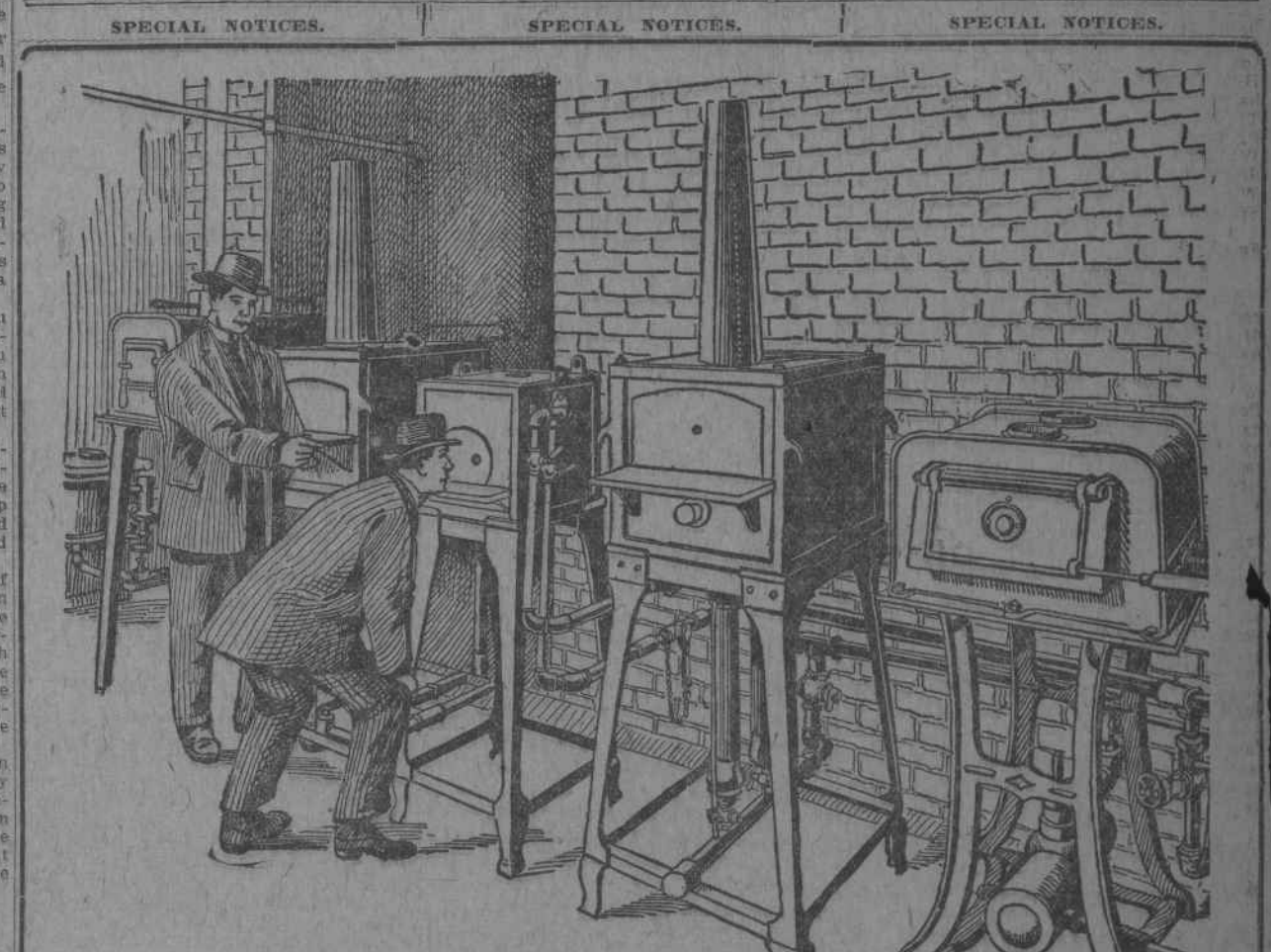
LONG ISLAND ROAD INCREASES WAGES

Adds \$23,000 to Its Payroll Upon the Demand of Three Hundred Employees.

Following demands for more pay three hundred employees of the Long Island Railroad, including telegraphers, tower men and station agents, have been granted an increase. Twenty-three thousand dollars has been added to the payroll of the railroad as a result.

At the office of the Long Island Railroad yesterday it was said that the increase in wages had gone into effect on January 1. It was explained that the additional expenditure was made necessary because of the fact that other employees of the railroad had received substantial increases, and the officers of the company resolved to make a general readjustment of wages. The increase for each man ranged from fifteen to two and one-half per cent.

Equalization was one of the principles which governed the officials in making up the new payroll.



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